

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-158 (Cancelled)

Claim 159 (Currently Amended): A candle or candle apparatus, comprising:

a body of a meltable fuel; and

a rigid, planar wick provided in the body, ~~the wick comprising a wood selected from the group consisting of poplar, cherry, maple, wenge, oak, rosewood and bamboo;~~

wherein:

the wick has a height dimension, a width dimension, and a thickness dimension;

the height dimension is greater than the width dimension;

the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension; and

~~the wick provides an acoustic crackling sound when burned~~ the wick comprises a wood selected from the group consisting of poplar and cherry.

Claim 160 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the meltable fuel is a paraffin-based wax.

Claim 161 (Cancelled)

Claim 162 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the meltable fuel is a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 163 (Currently Amended): The candle or candle apparatus of ~~claim 162~~ claim

159, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.023 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 164 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the meltable fuel comprises a paraffin-based wax and a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 165 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the meltable fuel comprises further components selected from the group consisting of fragrances and dyes.

Claim 166 (Cancelled)

Claim 167 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wood comprises wood or wood particles that have been adhered, bonded, pressed and cut to size.

Claim 168 (Currently Amended): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wood has a moisture content of from ~~10 to 12~~6 to 8 percent.

Claim 169 (Cancelled)

Claim 170 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wood comprises added resin.

Claim 171 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wood comprises substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height

dimension.

Claim 172 (Cancelled)

Claim 173 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the width dimension of the wick is from 1/8 to 20 inches.

Claim 174 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/16 to 1/4 inches.

Claim 175 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/8 to 3/16 inches.

Claim 176 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wick is coated with wax.

Claim 177 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wick comprises a plurality of wicks.

Claim 178 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wick has been subjected to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of bleaching, dyeing and printing.

Claim 179 (Currently Amended): A candle or candle apparatus, comprising:
a body of a meltable fuel; and
a rigid, planar wick provided in the body, ~~the wick comprising a wood having a moisture content of from 10 to 12 percent;~~
wherein:
the wick has a height dimension, a width dimension, and a thickness dimension;
the height dimension is greater than the width dimension;
the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension; ~~and~~
~~the wick provides an acoustic crackling sound when burned~~the wick comprises a wood having substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height dimension; and
the wood has a moisture content of from 6 to 8 percent.

Claim 180 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179,
wherein the meltable fuel is a paraffin-based wax.

Claim 181 (Cancelled)

Claim 182 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179,
wherein the meltable fuel is a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 183 (Currently Amended): The candle or candle apparatus of ~~claim 182~~claim 179, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.023 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 184 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179,
wherein the meltable fuel comprises a paraffin-based wax and a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 185 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the meltable fuel comprises further components selected from the group consisting of fragrances and dyes.

Claim 186 (Cancelled)

Claim 187 (Currently Amended): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wood comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of poplar, and cherry, ~~maple, wenge, oak, rosewood and bamboo.~~

Claim 188 (Cancelled)

Claim 189 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wood comprises wood or wood particles that have been adhered, bonded, pressed and cut to size.

Claim 190 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wood comprises added resin.

Claims 191-192 (Cancelled)

Claim 193 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the width dimension of the wick is from 1/8 to 20 inches.

Claim 194 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/16 to 1/4 inches.

Claim 195 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/8 to 3/16 inches.

Claim 196 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wick is coated with wax.

Claim 197 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wick comprises a plurality of wicks.

Claim 198 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wick has been subjected to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of bleaching, dyeing and printing.

Claim 199 (Currently Amended): A candle or candle apparatus, comprising:
a body of a meltable fuel; and
a rigid, planar wick provided in the body, the wick comprising a material selected from the group consisting of wood, wood product, a semi-wood composition, and a wood-like material;
wherein:
the wick has a height dimension, a width dimension, and a thickness dimension;

the height dimension is greater than the width dimension;
the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension;
~~the wick comprises substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height~~
~~dimension; and~~
the thickness dimension of the wick ~~provides an acoustic crackling sound when~~
~~burned~~ is from 0.023 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 200 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199,
wherein the meltable fuel is a paraffin-based wax.

Claim 201 (Currently Amended): The candle or candle apparatus of ~~claim 200~~claim
199, wherein ~~the thickness dimension of the wick is 0.019 to 0.023 inches~~ the wick comprises
substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height dimension.

Claim 202 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199,
wherein the meltable fuel is a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 203 (Cancelled)

Claim 204 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199,
wherein the meltable fuel comprises a paraffin-based wax and a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 205 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199,
wherein the meltable fuel comprises further components selected from the group consisting
of fragrances and dyes.

Claim 206 (Cancelled)

Claim 207 (Currently Amended): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the material comprises a wood selected from the group consisting of ~~poplar~~, poplar and cherry, ~~maple~~, ~~wenge~~, ~~oak~~, ~~rosewood~~ and ~~bamboo~~.

Claim 208 (Cancelled)

Claim 209 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the material comprises wood or wood particles that have been adhered, bonded, pressed and cut to size.

Claim 210 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the material comprises added resin.

Claim 211 (Currently Amended): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the material comprises a wood having a moisture content of from ~~10 to 12~~ 6 to 8 percent.

Claims 212-213 (Cancelled)

Claim 214 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the width dimension of the wick is from 1/8 to 20 inches.

Claim 215 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/16 to 1/4 inches.

Claim 216 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/8 to 3/16 inches.

Claim 217 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the wick is coated with wax.

Claim 218 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the wick comprises a plurality of wicks.

Claim 219 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the wick has been subjected to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of bleaching, dyeing and printing.

Claim 220-240 (Cancelled)

Claim 241 (Previously Presented): A candle or candle apparatus, comprising:
a body of a meltable fuel; and
a rigid, planar wick provided in the body, the wick comprising two sheets of a material selected from the group consisting of wood, wood product, a semi-wood composition, and a wood-like material;

wherein:

the wick has a height dimension, a width dimension, and a thickness dimension;

the height dimension is greater than the width dimension;

the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension; and

a flat piece of cotton is sandwiched between the two sheets.

Claim 242 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the meltable fuel is a paraffin-based wax.

Claim 243 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 242, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is 0.019 to 0.023 inches.

Claim 244 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the meltable fuel is a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 245 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 244, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.023 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 246 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the meltable fuel comprises a paraffin-based wax and a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 247 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the meltable fuel comprises further components selected from the group consisting of fragrances and dyes.

Claim 248 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises at least one hardwood.

Claim 249 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises a wood selected from the group consisting of poplar, cherry, maple, wenge, oak, rosewood and bamboo.

Claim 250 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises cherry wood.

Claim 251 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises wood or wood particles that have been adhered, bonded, pressed and cut to size.

Claim 252 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises added resin.

Claim 253 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises a wood having a moisture content of from 10 to 12 percent.

Claim 254 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises a wood having a moisture content of less than about 6 percent.

Claim 255 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241,

wherein the material comprises substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height dimension.

Claim 256 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.019 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 257 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the width dimension of the wick is from 1/8 to 20 inches.

Claim 258 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/16 to 1/4 inches.

Claim 259 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/8 to 3/16 inches.

Claim 260 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the wick is coated with wax.

Claim 261 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the wick comprises a plurality of wicks.

Claim 262 (Previously Presented): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the wick has been subjected to at least one treatment selected from the group

consisting of bleaching, dyeing and printing.

Claim 263 (Cancelled)

Claim 264 (New): A candle or candle apparatus, comprising:

a body of a meltable fuel; and

a rigid, planar wick provided in the body;

wherein:

the wick has a height dimension, a width dimension, and a thickness dimension;

the height dimension is greater than the width dimension;

the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension; and

the wick comprises a wood selected from the group consisting of poplar and cherry;

the wood has substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height
dimension;

the wood has a moisture content of from 6 to 8 percent ; and

the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.023 to 0.028 inches.